

JACK DOYLE MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Doyle Announces 2003 Budget Surplus

\$18 to \$32 Million Surplus in 2003 Anticipated To Eliminate Deficits Accrued in 2000 through 2002

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today announced that the County anticipates ending 2003 with a budget surplus between \$18.4 to \$32.4 million. The figures are part of the County's Second Quarter Key Budget Indicator Report that was released today. The surplus was created by the County Executive's Fiscal Integrity Plan that utilized funds from the tobacco settlement. Doyle also announced that KPMG Peat Marwick, the County's independent auditors, have confirmed that the Monroe County unreserved general fund deficit for year-end 2002 was \$19.5 million, not \$28 million as has been erroneously reported.

"Today's news is a tremendous victory for local taxpayers. While others offered the non-solution of a tax increase to solve the County's financial problems, we have balanced our books through innovative use of tobacco settlement funds and asset sales," said Doyle. "Our continued efforts to balance the budget, while keeping faith with our taxpayers, will pay dividends in our fight to create new jobs for our community's working families."

Doyle also stated that Monroe County's 2002 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) will be released on August 22, 2003. The CAFR will unequivocally state that the County's deficit for 2002 was \$19.5 million. The CAFR, prepared in conjunction with KPMG Peat Marwick, was delayed due to new accounting standards from the Government Accounting Standards Board. These new standards have also delayed the reports of numerous other counties throughout the nation, including neighboring Erie County. Doyle also released a final draft of Monroe County's audit for 2002 by KPMG that again clearly states that the deficit was \$19.5 million, not \$28.2 million as has been falsely asserted.

"My administration has always been clear and honest about County finances and the challenges we face, unlike our colleagues in the City of Rochester or the last Democratic County Administration," said Doyle. "It is clear that some in our community would rather use scare tactics than debate the merits of their tax and tax-again solutions to every issue we face."

Doyle stated that when the surplus is realized at year-end the funds will be used to eliminate the County's deficit from prior years.

"I'm proud to say my administration will end with our County in the black," said Doyle.

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